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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

DCI Host Breakfast in Honor of Representative William Dickinson  
Wednesday, 2 July, 8:00 a.m., DCI Dining Room

FROM:

David D. Gries   
Director of Congressional Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

30 June 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DCI

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cc: DDCI  
DDI

WORKING COPY

30 June 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI  
FROM: Dave Gries   
SUBJECT: Breakfast with Representative Dickinson

You are scheduled to host breakfast for Representative William Dickinson on Wednesday, 2 July, at 8:00 a.m. in the DCI Dining Room. The DDCI, DDI and myself will also attend.

As you know, Rep. Dickinson is the Ranking Minority Member on the House Armed Services Committee and as such is an integral player in the mark-up of the Defense Authorization Bill.

Talking points and biographic information are attached.

Attachments

Distribution:

Copy 1 - DCI  
Copy 2 - DDCI  
Copy 3 - DDI  
Copy 4 - ER  
Copy 5 - D/OCA  
Copy 6 - DD/HA/OCA  
Copy 7 - OCA Subject  
D/OCA:DDG:mlg (30 June 1986)

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Alabama - 2nd District

## 2 William L. Dickinson (R)

Of Montgomery — Elected 1984

**Born:** June 5, 1925, Opelika, Ala.  
**Education:** U. of Alabama Law School, LL.B. 1950.  
**Military Career:** Navy, 1943-46; Air Force Reserve.  
**Occupation:** Lawyer, judge; railroad executive.  
**Family:** Wife, Barbara Edwards; four children.  
**Religion:** Methodist.  
**Political Career:** Opelika city judge, 1951-53; Lee County Court of Common Pleas and Juvenile Court Judge, 1953-59; 5th Judicial Circuit Judge, 1959-63. Capitol Office: 2406 Rayburn Bldg. 20515; 225-2901.



In Washington: One of the secondary casualties of the 1985 coup on Armed Services was Dickinson, who had taken increasing advantage of the vacuum in Democratic leadership to carve out a sphere of influence rare for a minority member.

Under the enfeebled chairmanship of 80-year-old Illinois Democrat Melvin Price, Dickinson sometimes seemed to be de facto chairman. He took the lead and credit on many issues; during tours of bases and installations, military officials often thanked Dickinson first for his efforts to procure some new weapon or additional equipment.

Dickinson attributed his influence not to Price's weakness but to the committee's non-partisan approach to defense issues, and to his role as the panel's emissary to Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger. But whatever the explanation, he faces a different climate under the aggressive new Armed Services chairman, Les Aspin of Wisconsin. No longer will Dickinson be the one key man for Pentagon officers and other players to see when they want something done.

But he will remain a crucial member, continuing one of the more notable House transformations of recent years. Through a decade and a half of his congressional career, Dickinson was viewed as a talented but lackadaisical member whose occasional flashes of interest were not matched by a day-to-day commitment to detailed work. Since his arrival as senior Armed Services Republican in 1981, however, he has established himself beyond challenge as a major participant in defense policy.

One reason for his pivotal role has been his relatively independent stand toward Pentagon spending requests. In the early days of the Reagan administration, he warned the Defense Department not to assume a permanent na-

tional consensus for higher defense spending. "We will only be able to retain public support," he said, "if we can show that the funds are spent wisely."

By 1984, he was openly criticizing the White House for "stonewalling" a compromise that some congressional Republicans had worked out on MX missile funding; Reagan insisted on 21 missiles, but was forced to accept a lesser number. "By digging in their heels, they came up with half as good a deal," Dickinson said. "The president was getting very bad advice."

Generally, though, Dickinson is in Reagan's corner on military issues. He has been the most visible administration defender on recent defense authorization bills, putting up a common front with committee Democrat Samuel S. Stratton — with whom he has sometimes quarreled in the past — to argue for the MX missile, chemical weapons and other controversial programs.

Dickinson can be a tough, sarcastic debater; when critics of chemical warfare tried to argue that world opinion was against it, he remarked, "If the Soviets start to roll and use their chemical agents, we will hit them with an opinion poll. That will stop them in their tracks."

The Alabama Republican was effective in the 97th Congress on a heavily lobbied issue, the proposed use of reconditioned 747 airplanes rather than C-5A cargo planes for international troop transport. Dickinson took the lead for Armed Services in backing the C-5A, arguing his case in a rambling but convincing speech that provided some of the more entertaining moments of the defense bill debate. "The whole idea of using 747s comes from somebody who is trying to peddle airplanes," he said. In the end,

William L. Dickinson, R-Ala.

## Alabama 2

Most of the 2nd District, which covers the southeast corner of the state, is rural. But half the population is concentrated in two urban centers at opposite corners of the district.

At the northwest edge is Montgomery County, with just under 200,000 people. The city of Montgomery has long been a national Republican stronghold in Alabama, voting for GOP presidential candidates as far back as 1956.

Montgomery was the first capital of the Confederacy, and to many the city represents the Fort Sumter of the civil rights movement. In 1955 a black woman named Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, and her arrest resulted in a boycott led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the end of bus segregation.

With the state Capitol crucial to its economy, Montgomery is largely a white-collar town with a government-oriented work force. Nearby Maxwell and Gunter Air Force bases employ more than 6,000 people.

At the southeastern corner of the district, near the Florida and Georgia borders, is the Houston County seat of Dothan, a city of nearly 50,000. Originally a cotton and peanut market town, Dothan grew rapidly after World War II — especially in the 1970s — by attracting new industries, in-

## Southeast — Montgomery; Dothan

cluding large plants run by Michelin and Sony. Largely non-union, the Dothan plants represent most of the heavy industry in the 2nd District.

Although fiercely loyal to George C. Wallace, Houston County has been voting regularly for conservative Republicans in other contests over the last decade.

Fort Rucker, where many Army and Air Force helicopter pilots and crews are trained, is northwest of Dothan in Dale County. More than 11,000 military and civilian personnel work at Fort Rucker.

Between these two population centers are the Piney Woods of Alabama and a portion of the state's Black Belt. Sparsely populated, the area grows more peanuts than almost any region in the country, although cotton is still cultivated. As a testament to the success of peanuts, the town of Enterprise in Coffee County erected a monument to the boll weevil, the insect whose destruction of the cotton crop in the early part of the century convinced farmers to switch to peanuts.

Population: 549,505. White 376,259 (69%), Black 168,913 (31%). Spanish origin 5,731 (1%). 18 and over 383,150 (70%), 65 and over 64,624 (12%). Median age: 29.

his side won easily.

Dickinson has used his Armed Services position to travel around the world and to direct federal military spending into his district. As a traveler, he achieved distinction early. In his first six years in Congress, he visited 29 countries. He has managed to keep up the pace since then.

As for his district, Dickinson takes pride in the comprehensive five-year development plan for Maxwell-Gunter Air Force complex in Montgomery and in the millions of dollars that have gone into flight training at Fort Rucker, even though the long-sought helicopter training expansion has never taken place.

Dickinson also is the senior Republican in years of service on the House Administration Committee. Under party rules, however, he could only be "ranking" on one panel, so he yielded that position on House Administration to Bill Frenzel of Minnesota.

Outside his committee assignments, Dickinson tries to involve himself in measures of interest to the cotton and peanut farmers of his district. He sometimes testifies at the Agriculture Committee in favor of peanut price-support programs.

Dickinson's good-natured personal style does not always come through in his rhetoric. During his early years in Congress, strong words caused him a considerable amount of trouble.

In his first term, Dickinson took to the House floor and denounced civil rights marchers in his home state as "human flotsam" and "communist dupes," stirred up by outside agitators and a biased press. Some members, offended at the tone of his remarks, pointedly walked out of the House chamber as he spoke. His hometown newspaper criticized him publicly; Dickinson conceded he may have erred.

Dickinson chooses his words a little more

carefully these days, at least in public, but his basic political conservatism remains solid.

He warns against the spread of international communism and speaks out for the nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan. And, as he has noted in his own list of accomplishments, Dickinson "fights radical liberal efforts to further lower moral standards in the U.S. with such schemes as abortion on demand and so-called homosexual 'civil rights.'"

In the 97th Congress Dickinson renewed his attack on the federal judiciary, introducing a constitutional amendment requiring Senate confirmation of federal judges every six years. He said such a procedure would be "bound to keep them a little more honest."

At Home: Like fellow-Republican Jack Edwards of the neighboring 1st District, who retired from the House in 1984, Dickinson has converted his upset victory in the turbulent Goldwater election year into a long-term congressional career.

But while Edwards had an easy time holding his seat, Dickinson has rarely escaped serious opposition. Six times he has won with less than 60 percent of the vote; four times, he has been held under 55 percent.

Dickinson represents a primarily rural, traditionally Democratic area of Alabama. Some of his conservative Democratic opponents have drawn the active support of former Gov. George C. Wallace, whose original home base is Barbour County, at the eastern end of the 2nd.

Dickinson has embellished his conservative credentials with blessings from prominent figures like Jerry Falwell, the national leader of the Moral Majority, and has been able to establish a solid base of support in the population centers, Montgomery and Dothan.

Dickinson's urban base, however, was barely enough in 1982. As Wallace's longtime press secretary and president of the state Public Service Commission, Democratic challenger Billy Joe Camp had excellent name identification. Camp was not an aggressive campaigner and did not have much money. But he benefited from Wallace's presence on the ballot as gubernatorial nominee. That and a double-digit unemployment rate were nearly enough to send

#### Alabama - 2nd District

him to Congress.

With Camp carrying nine of the district's 13 counties, Dickinson had to run more than 10,000 votes ahead in the Montgomery and Dothan areas to eke out a 1,386-vote victory. It was the smallest margin of his House career.

There was real concern in Republican ranks that Camp would try again in 1984, and that a high black turnout generated by the presidential contest might mean disaster for Dickinson. Those fears turned out to be groundless. Camp, one of a handful of Wallace confidants with wide latitude in running the state, lost interest in coming to Washington. No top-name Democrat stepped forward to replace him. And any increase in the black vote was more than canceled out by the Reagan surge among white voters. Dickinson romped to victory with a comfortable 60 percent.

A Democratic circuit judge in Lee County for four years, Dickinson quit the bench in 1963 to become assistant vice president of the Southern Railroad. But his stay in the business world was brief. He filed for the House just as Barry Goldwater was launching his presidential campaign, and when Goldwater swept Alabama in November 1964, Dickinson easily unseated Democratic Rep. George M. Grant.

Grant had a conservative record, but Dickinson managed to associate him with the national Democratic ticket, which not only was unpopular in the state but was excluded from an official position at the top of the ballot.

Dickinson has had several close re-elections since then. The strongest challenger until Camp was state Sen. "Walking" Wendell Mitchell, who ran in 1978. Mitchell said Dickinson had done little for the district and had missed too many House roll calls. Dickinson was held to 54 percent of the vote.

In the following two years, the Republican devoted increased attention to his constituency. From his position on the Armed Services Committee, he was able to win increased funding for Maxwell-Gunter. In 1980, with Republicans running well statewide in Alabama, Dickinson won re-election with a comfortable 61 percent of the vote.

William L. Dickinson, R-Ala.

### Committees

Armed Services (Ranking)  
Research and Development (ranking); Military Installations and Facilities.  
House Administration (2nd of 7 Republicans)  
Services (ranking); Office Systems.

### Elections

1984 General  
William L. Dickinson (R) 118,153 (60%)  
Larry Lee (D) 75,508 (39%)

1982 General  
William L. Dickinson (R) 83,290 (50%)  
Billy Joe Camp (D) 81,904 (50%)

Previous Winning Percentages: 1980 (61%) 1978 (54%)  
1976 (58%) 1974 (66%) 1972 (55%) 1970 (61%)  
1968 (55%) 1966 (55%) 1964 (62%)

### District Vote For President

1984 1980 1978  
D 73,603 (36%) D 83,720 (44%) D 88,208 (53%)  
R 130,370 (63%) R 99,283 (53%) R 75,528 (46%)

### Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1984			
Dickinson (R)	\$433,610	\$214,615 (50%)	\$329,622
Lee (D)	\$63,366	\$17,000 (27%)	\$60,790
1982			
Dickinson (R)	\$300,183	\$129,735 (43%)	\$287,346
Camp (D)	\$145,213	\$49,850 (34%)	\$141,373

### Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1984	64	26	72	18	90	5
1983	78	16	75	17	83	10

Year	75	14	78	11	89	4
1982	75	14	78	11	89	4
1981	72	16	77	14	81	7
1980	32	56	80	11	79	5
1979	20	72	82	11	88	5
1978	21	82	74	12	84	5
1977	32	66	74	12	81	4
1976	78	18	86	6	92	1
1975	64	27	78	10	85	4
1974 (Ford)	50	33				
1974	60	28	77	8	82	2
1973	70	22	78	14	89	3
1972	43	24	74	8	77	2
1971	74	19	82	12	93	3

S - Support

O - Opposition

### Key Votes

Raise Social Security retirement age to 67 (1983)	Y
Bar covert U.S. aid to Nicaragua (1983)	N
Reduce dairy price supports (1983)	N
Pass Equal Rights Amendment (1983)	N
Freeze physicians' fees under Medicare (1984)	#
Bar aid to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua (1984)	N
Pass bill to revise immigration laws (1984)	N
Cut education spending (1984)	Y
Authorize procurement of 21 MX missiles (1985)	Y

### Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1984	10	85	23	60
1983	0	80	6	94
1982	0	95	0	84
1981	5	76	27	100
1980	11	83	10	81
1979	5	88	6	93
1978	5	96	16	81
1977	5	92	23	100
1976	0	96	17	100
1975	5	89	9	100
1974	4	92	0	88
1973	4	96	9	100
1972	0	95	0	100
1971	3	86	17	



C O N F I D E N T I A L

DINING ROOM EVENTS  
CHECKLIST

Time/Date of Event: 0800-Wednesday, 2 July 1986

Event: Breakfast XX Luncheon        Dinner        Other       

Host: DCI XX DDCI        ExDir        Other       

Place: DCI D.R. XX Executive Dining Room        Other       

In Honor Of: Representative William L. Dickinson

Total Number of Attendees: 5\*

Sponsoring Component: OCA/DCI Charge To:       

Contact:        Ext:        Room 7E45 Hqs.

Date Reservation Made: 27 June 1986 By: CLD  
PB Officer

EDR and Zandra advised: 27 June 1986 Cys To: DCI; DDCI; DDI; OCA; EDR

Place Cards:  
Ordered:        Date        Received        Date        To EDR        Date       

Menu: WILL ORDER FROM THE MENU  
Prepared        Date        Distributed To:       

\*Mr. William J. Casey, host  
Representative William L. Dickinson, guest of honor  
Mr. Robert Gates, DDCI  
Mr. Richard Kerr, DDI  
Mr. David Gries, OCA

